

CUBANS BLOW UP A RAILWAY TRAIN.

Fifteen Killed and Over a
Score Wounded by
the Explosion.

DYNAMITE USED BY REBELS

Fierce Refutation of Weyler's
Claim That Pinar Del
Rio Is Pacified.

RAIDS INTO HAVANA PROVINCE.

Villages Sacked and Destroyed by the
Insurgents—Two Leaders
Cross the Spanish
Trocha.

Havana, Jan. 31.—Weyler's statement that Pinar del Rio province is "pacified" is proven to be ridiculous by the fierce warfare which the patriots are waging. Mayia Rodriguez, called by the Cubans "The Unconquered," one of the best fighters in the island, has just taken command in Pinar del Rio. He crossed the Spanish trocha with a strong bodyguard and has a well equipped force.

Word reached Havana Friday that the insurgents had dynamited a train in Pinar del Rio, causing great damage and loss of life. Although the censor maintains the official pacification and suppressed the information in the papers, the news rapidly spread.

Many Killed and Wounded.
Investigation disclosed the fact that Thursday morning, as a military train was crossing a culvert at Ocuajagua, between Candelaria and Mangos, tremendous dynamite explosions occurred, dishing the engine and tender.

The armored car was completely wrecked and other cars were also more or less dam-



Cornelius Vanderbilt Is Said to Be in Washington for Depew.

aged. The engineer, fireman and thirteen soldiers were killed. The surgeon, twenty soldiers, conductor and brakemen were wounded. Assistance was hurriedly sent and the dead bodies were brought to Havana. The wounded were left at Candelaria.

The official reports daily announce numerous encounters in different sections of Pinar del Rio. In order to diminish their importance they are always reported as skirmishes, with considerable rebel losses and trifling on the Spanish side. When the affair assumes undue proportions, as did Melguizo's recent defeat, then the whole details are suppressed.

Operations Near Havana.
Another illustration of the Spanish misrepresentation in their assertion that three Western provinces are practically pacified was given Friday night, when Aranguren struck another blow in the vicinity of Havana, sacking and burning the hamlets of Cruz, Piedra and Baccarano, near Guanabacoa.

The rebels burned most of the town of Nava Paz, in Havana Province, despite the fact that the town is protected by ten forts with a garrison of 300 men. All the stores were looted and then burned.

Rius Rivera, who was designated to take charge of the Cuban forces in Havana province, managed to pass the Trocha Friday, and is near Mariel now at the head of the insurgents of that section.

More Decrees by Weyler.

The Gaceta Oficial prints three decrees issued yesterday by Captain-General Weyler from his headquarters at Cienfuegos. These decrees order the enforcement in the province of Santa Clara of the provisions of his last three previous decrees relative to the concentration of the inhabitants, the sale of goods, and the establishment of zones of cultivation, as provided for in the provisions of Pinar del Rio, Havana and Matanzas.

SENATOR HALE FOR SPRINGER.

Little Likelihood, However, of the Vice-Consul-General at Havana Succeeding Lee.

Washington, Jan. 31.—Senator Hale is backing Vice-Consul General Springer as successor to General Fitzhugh Lee at Havana. Mr. Springer has had some twenty years in the position he holds, but his sympathies are so pronouncedly pro-Spanish that strong opposition will be made to his appointment.

The nature of the office is such that it is imperative for the good of American interests in Cuba for the Consul-General to hold himself aloof from Spanish intrigues. The Spanish ring at Havana is corrupt to the core, and but for the firm and intelligent opposition which Ramon Williams, the



WHY VANDERBILT IS IN WASHINGTON

Politics, and Not Climate,
Believed to Have In-
duced the Move.

WANTS DEPEW APPOINTED

Vanderbilt's Efforts in the Last
Election Deserve an Am-
bassadorship.

Cornelius Vanderbilt, who has rented a handsome residence in Washington, will be an important element in the social life of President McKinley's administration.

The step he has taken is significant to those who have a close relation to the silent and powerful forces bent on the slugging of national affairs. They declare that the move was made after only the most careful consideration and is part of a plan, the first result of which will be the appointment of Chauncey Mitchell Depew as Ambassador to England.

Indeed, it is said on excellent authority that the Vanderbilts will request the appointment of the great after-dinner speaker whose pleasant acquaintance with the Prince of Wales will have already removed much that might be awkward to the next successor of Mr. Bayard.

Mr. Depew smilingly denied the report and considered that it would be anti-patriotic too much to say whether, in case the honor were offered him, he would accept it or not.

The head of the house of Vanderbilt three years ago thought there was a chance to nominate Depew for President in 1896, and remarked:

"All that the Vanderbilt family can do to advance Mr. Depew politically will be done."

The dream of a Presidency had to be foregone, but the Vanderbilts, as in former years, were loyal to the Republican cause in a fashion that is appreciated by managers of campaigns, who know that a candidate cannot be elected on sentiment alone.

The sagacity of Cornelius Vanderbilt was demonstrated in the preliminary work of the St. Louis convention. Months before he saw the necessity of electing a McKinley and Hanna was loyal to him, and at a conference of magnates, called by him, a plan of action was determined upon. The "Tom" Platt gold resolution is part of the Republican platform, and as it is well known, was not favored by Mark Hanna at the outset.

That point carried, the Vanderbilt interests were set to work to elect Major McKinley, but so feeble was Cornelius that his ideas were carried out by William K. and others of the family. Mr. Hanna can attest to what valuable aid they gave. And Hanna is not liable to overlook the obligation to a patron so powerful, who still has favors to grant of a kind that cannot be secured by gold.

The going to Washington of Cornelius Vanderbilt will mark an interesting period in its social life and the ambition of the men and women who bow in reverence to the Four Hundred.

SENATE CERTAIN TO ACCEPT PAYN.

Platt's Man Has Enough
Votes to Confirm His
Appointment.

TO BE NAMED TO-NIGHT.

Present Plan Is to Push the
Nomination Through the In-
surance Committee.

BLACK'S FRIENDS MAY CAUCUS.

Coming Commissioner Says He Will Not
Reply to His Accusers Until "This
Episode Is Finished"—Chauncey
Depew's Influence.

Albany, Jan. 31.—"Lon" Payn, who will succeed James F. Pierce as Superintendent of Insurance, despite "intolerant clamor," arrived in Albany to-night. He disclaimed to reply to the published charges against him, and appeared in excellent health and spirits.

"My policy ever since this agitation began has been one of silence, and until the episode is finished I will say nothing," said Payn when seen by the Journal representative.

The Governor's programme relative to this affair, the most important of the session thus far, is to send in Payn's nomination to-morrow night. Probably the nominations of Ashley W. Cole, Baker and George W. Dunn, of Binghamton as Railroad Commissioners will accompany Payn's name. There has been some talk of moving the confirmation of Payn immediately. The Governor opposes this plan on the ground that no action which might be termed "snap" by the hostile press should be taken. He wants the matter to go to a committee, so that undue haste in the confirmation cannot be alleged. For that reason Payn's name will be sent to the Insurance Committee, of which J. Irving Burns, of Yonkers, is chairman. It will be considered on Tuesday, and will undoubtedly be confirmed the same day with more than enough Republican votes.

"Marking" Payn's Opponents.
There is some doubt as to the propriety of calling a caucus. Several of the recently recruited "Payners" desire a caucus for self-protection and to make it unpleasant from an organization standpoint for those who refuse to oblige Governor Black.

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Payn's friends do not wish to give this protection to the late comers, and think that caucus action might rob Payn's "intention" of its most valuable feature. In other words, Mr. Payn and his friends desire to have it distinctly understood that enough voluntary supporters to confirm are in the Republican Senate. The caucus will nevertheless be held to-morrow and may ultimately be decided upon.

Payn will have at least twenty-seven Republican votes, and probably thirty. It requires twenty-six votes to confirm. As a vote getter Governor Black is a great success. Those who have positively refused to be severed from their sense of duty or policy are Senators Pavy, Brush, Wray, Higgins and Humphrey. Those who are doubtful, but almost certain to fall into line, are Senators Mullin, White, George Davis and Charles Davis. To persons familiar with the methods of legislators it would not be very surprising if all but Pavy, Brush, Wray and Higgins voted for Payn.

Among the "anti-Payners" there are sure to be some who will be absent when the vote is taken. Owing to misleading reports the impression gained ground last Monday that Mr. Payn's name might be sent in at any time. It was amusing to notice the regularity with which several presumed to be violently against Payn absented themselves during the entire week.

Payn Is a Big Power.

One significant fact must be borne in mind—the Senators who refuse to vote for Payn will not have only the antagonism to contend with this and next session, but will be down in Payn's black list. As a political power Payn is much stronger than the general public might believe. He admittedly nominated the present Governor and is likely to remain an influential position in the party management. Thus, opposition to him now may mean political death for the opposers. It is certain to mean that legislation desired by those gentlemen will not be given them, for the machine will attend to that. The five men who are likely to hold the reins against Payn to the end—Pavy, of New York; Brush and Wray, of Brooklyn; Hum-

phrey, of Warsaw, and Higgins, of Glen, are all peculiarly independent districts. Horace White, who would like to be against Payn, is the representative of the Syracuse machine. One of his bosses, John S. Kuylen, wants to be secretary of the Railroad Commission. If White should vote against Payn he would be permanently dropped by the machine. Joseph Mullin of Watertown is in almost the same position.

Depew's Influence.

In his case Chauncey M. Depew wields a powerful influence, and Mr. Depew, when here recently, congratulated Black for the expected appointment of Payn. Charles Davis, of Saugerties, is a thorough machine man, and he knows what kicking over the traces will do for him—put him in his political grave. George A. Davis, of Lancaster, Erie County, comes from a district which a few years ago was anti-machine, but now is controlled by the machine. He takes his political life in his hands when he votes against Payn.

Even the distinguished reformer, Pavy, although he is classed as an anti-Payner, will probably be absent when the vote is taken. Pavy wants to be the next United States District-Attorney for the New York district, and he is not likely to endanger his excellent chances of getting that position on a purely "sentimental" proposition.

Committee Dines with Mr. Croker.

A neatly arranged board, bound in vellum and containing an account of the famous Croker dinner at the Hotel Savoy, was presented to Mr. Croker at his home yesterday by some of the leaders of Tammany Hall.

After the presentation Mr. Croker entertained the committee at dinner. Those present were John C. Sherrill, Perry Belmont, Nathan Straus, James J. Martin, Lawrence Delmour, James P. Keating, Thomas F. Grady, Justice Van Wyck, General W. H. Jackson, of Tennessee; Register Scholmer, Daniel P. McMahon, James W. Boyle, Thomas J. Dunn and Andrew Friedman.

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